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SIPDIS

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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: SLOVENIA ON FOOD AID AND THE WTO

REF: SECSTATE 155973

1. (U) Econoff delivered reftel nonpaper 31 August to Marko Verbic, Head of the EU Coordination and International Affairs Service at the Slovene Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food. Acknowledging the need for CSSD reforms, Verbic said he felt concerns over transportation costs could be one of the challenges in reaching an agreement at the forthcoming meetings in Geneva. Verbic said that while Slovenia has very minimal surplus food stock, it might be able to assist the UN World Food Program by "covering the costs" of shipping surplus food from other countries. (Note: Slovenia maintains a busy and growing port in the Adriatic coastal city of Koper. End note.) Verbic told Econoff that the general manager of the World Food Program had visited Slovenia in April 2005 and that Slovenia made the offer to donate transportation at that time.
COLEMAN

NNNN

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